

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

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Colonel Brendan P. Doherty Chief Anthony J. Silva

Commissioner, Department of Public Safety Executive Director

**Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police Municipal Police Training
Academy**

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training

Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2009

I. Call to order

Colonel Stephen M. McCartney called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:02 a.m. on August 27, 2009 in RIMPA-Lincoln.

II. Roll call

Colonel McCartney took a roll call. All POST members were present: Stephen M. McCartney, Chief George L. Kelley, III, Chief Anthony Pesare, Lt. Ernest Quarry, Mr. Robert Driscoll; also present were Chief Anthony J. Silva, Mr. Richard B. Woolley, Esq., Captain David Ricciarelli, Colonel Richard Sullivan, Class Training Officer Dan

Barzykowski, and Donna Lavallee.

III. Approval of the minutes

Colonel McCartney asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting dated May 21, 2009. Chief Kelley made a motion to accept the minutes; Chief Pesare seconded the motion. After no further discussion and all in favor (5-0), the minutes were accepted.

IV. Update on current 112th Session, 2009-III recruit class

Chief Silva introduced the Class Training Officer Sgt. Dan Barzykowski, who has been assigned here since Day One and for the first five weeks. Sgt. Barzykowski stated that the Recruit class is going well and it is a very enthusiastic class. He reported as to their training received to date. He has received good feedback from the instructional staff. These positions have been in use by the Vermont Police Academy for several years now, even though they have a full time staff of 12 employees. We actually wrote our policy mirroring theirs.

Chief Silva added that the progress with the C.T.O. program is working out better than we ever anticipated. To date, we have been fortunate enough to have 7 C.T.O.'s and they come here enthusiastically and return to their departments very thankful for having been able to assist the Academy. He went on to say that since we have moved more towards a para-military entity, having the "hands-on" with the department officers is great for the recruits.

Capt. Ricciarelli interjected that Sgt. Baryzkowski, especially, has been a great asset not only as the C.T.O. but also as a lead Use of Force Instructor. He has become instrumental in turning over a new

program for us.

V. Request by RITOA (Tactical Officers Association) for approval of the following tactical teams: East Providence P.D., Pawtucket P.D., Newport P.D., and Cranston P.D.:

Chief Silva stated that he has received recommendations from Inspector Mathiesen that they have completed their reviews on the above-listed departments and they are being recommended to the POST for certification of their tactical teams. Colonel McCartney asked for a motion to approve the above listed tactical teams. (Chief Kelley recused himself from the vote as his department is one that is seeking certification). Chief Pesare made a motion to approve them; Lt. Quarry seconded the motion. After a vote, the approval was accepted unanimously (4-0). Chief Pesare asked the Director if he had written notification recommending them and the Director said we do. Also, the Director stated that letters were sent to all departments that if they needed more time, as discussed at the last POST meeting, they may be granted a 90-day extension. There are still some departments who are currently working to comply and they have until September 30, 2009.

VI. Update on stimulus funding for “Basic Training Officer” and “Curriculum Assessment Coordinator”:

Chief Silva stated that we were successful in obtaining stimulus

monies to hire a full time Training Officer and Curriculum writer. Just this morning these two positions were slated for a Public Hearing which Capt. Ricciarelli attended at 9:00 a.m. this morning. He is happy to report that both of these positions were passed and will be advertised tomorrow or early next week. Chief Pesare asked if we expect to run the C.T.O. program together with the new Training Officer and he answered yes, most definitely. Colonel McCartney stated that by doing that, there are many two-way benefits.

VII. Report from Colonel Sullivan, Highway Safety Coordinator.

Colonel Sullivan stated that there are a lot of good things happening with Highway Safety. Currently, there are two local officers in D.R.E. School...Highway Safety is trying to build up the D.R.E. progress. He ran a “Complete Traffic Stop” training which was highly successfully—great participation of over 60 officers. Highway safety has received \$100,000 to give to departments for a push on C.P.S. He also received approval on a P.O. for variable message signs for each police department.

VIII. Discussion on State furlough days.

Chief Silva stated that as everyone knows, the Governor has mandated 12 Furlough days for all state employees which require “shut down days”. These days amount to approximately one day per month and two in October. He has spoken with Major Bannon of the RISP and Lt. Hill regarding their Academy and they state that the RISP Academy will, in fact, close on the Furlough Days. He discussed with Major Bannon that our Academy is a little different than theirs

because our recruits are paid by towns and cities and our instructors (mostly volunteer) are scheduled already. Therefore, we will remain open on the Furlough Days with at least one full time employee here with the C.T.O. and arrangements will be made internally to arrange for another day off for that employee.

IX. Discussion on H1N1 and related POST policy on recruit sick leave.

Chief Silva stated he felt we should discuss the concerns about this virus. As being involved in EMA for the Town of Cumberland, he is well aware of the concerns regarding this string. His concern with the Recruit class is being that they share a “closeness” for several hours a day such as classroom, showers, sweating, etc., if one were to contract the virus, 1/3 – 1/2 of the recruit class could be out at once. Therefore, we will be putting a policy together regarding this. He has already spoken to other agencies who are doing the same and we will be able to take some advice from them. Hand sanitizers will be placed in the classroom and fieldhouse and they will be reminded to use them constantly. Captain Ricciarelli reviewed our Limited Participation and Sick Day Policy as it stands now and stated to the POST that if this virus were to affect the class, we would be asking the POST for special consideration to our policy in the event we are affected by this epidemic. Colonel McCartney agreed that that would be understandable given the circumstances.

X. Old Business.

Mr. Woolley stated that there is only one pending litigation right now which is in response to a subpoena regarding dealing with mental

illness for the City of Pawtucket. Capt Ricciarelli has done a great job trying to put all the records together; however, it is a difficult and tedious task given that the records go back to 1981.

XI. New Business:

Chief Kelley threw out the idea of perhaps, at some point in time, having a regionalization of the Agility testing. His department just completed their two-day testing with over 300 applicants and the cost factor was pretty steep. Also, many of the candidates are taking several agility tests per year for several different departments. He thought of maybe charging each candidate a fee and having one central test, run by the Academy, and then the certification would be good for one year. Colonel McCartney stated that would be something to bring up before the Chiefs at the Chief's meeting.

XII. Adjournment:

Chief Kelley made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chief Pesare seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Donna M. Lavalley, Administrative Assistant